

REMARKS

Enclosed is an abstract on a separate sheet of paper as required by M.P.E.P. §608.01(b).

In response to the above Office Action, claims 9 and 10 have been amended to more clearly claim applicants' invention. Claims 9-14 have also been amended to place the claims in more traditional U.S. format.

The indicated allowance of claims 11-14 is appreciated. It is not believed that the amendments to claims 11-14 effect the patentability of these claims.

Claim 9 now relates to a pattern carrier for a flask molding machine comprising a mount on which a pattern plate is mounted and a flask-shaped, molding flask-removing frame adapted to make contact with a lower end of a molding flask of a flask molding machine and moveable up and down around said pattern plate for removing a finished mold.

Support for the flask-shaped, molding flask-removing frame can be found on page 8, line 4 or page 12, line 24. This is the frame 8 in Figures 2-9 or frame 23 in Figure 10 that is moveable up and down around the pattern plate 5, 22 and is in addition to the main molding flask 20. It is adapted to make contact with a lower end of the molding flask of the flask molding machine during a molding operation.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) for being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,702,301 to Buhler.

Buhler may show a pattern plate carrier 13 and a molding flask 6 moveable up and down relative to it by appropriate actuators. However, in Buhler there is no disclosure of the claimed "flask-shaped, molding flask-removing frame" that is moveable up and down around the pattern plate. As discussed above, this is the frame 8, 23 that

can be moved up and down by actuators 7, 26 and is a frame that makes contact with a lower end of and is in addition to the main molding flask 20. As explained in the specification, the molding flask-removing frame assists in the removal of a finished mold. See, for example, Fig. 7 and page 11, lines 11-22. Buhler only shows structure equivalent to molding flask 20; not any additional frame moveable up and down around the pattern plate.

Accordingly, it is not believed amended claims 9 and 10 are anticipated by Buhler and its withdrawal as a ground of rejection of these claims under §102 is therefore requested.

Claims 9-14 should now be in condition for allowance.


In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: March 8, 2004

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